



TO: Members of the California Library Community

FROM: Susan Hildreth  
State Librarian of California 

DATE: October 13, 2006

RE: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Competitive Grant Program

I am pleased to announce the fiscal year 2007/2008 competitive program of grant awards in California for federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. Application materials and information about the LSTA program are available on the California State Library website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/html/grants.cfm>.

The procedure for applying for a 2007/2008 LSTA grant will be similar to past years; however, we have modified and changed the names of the forms. As in past grant cycles, the procedure will occur in two stages. First, a *preliminary proposal* for a grant proposal is submitted, reviewed by State Library staff, followed by advice to the applicant from the State Librarian about interest in the proposed project. Completed *final proposals* may then be submitted, with awards announced after a decision has been made by the State Librarian to approve the proposed project for funding.

Generally speaking, the broad goal of LSTA is to provide local assistance to all types of libraries in the areas of technology innovation, networking and resource-sharing, and targeted services to people who are underserved, disadvantaged, geographically isolated, illiterate, etc.

Since the new California Statewide Plan for Use of LSTA Funds, 2007/08-2011/12 will not be completed and approved by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) until after 2007/08 grants are awarded, for the purposes of your proposals, please continue to use the five goals as outlined in the [California Statewide Plan for Use of LSTA Funds, 2002/03-2006/07](#):

1. Enable libraries to provide their clientele with equitable access to lifelong education through development of children, youth, adult, and family literacy services; after-school programs for children and youth; innovative or enhanced school library programs; distance or online learning; and other educational resources so that all Californians can improve their education and achieve their life goals as lifelong learners, workers, family members and members of society.
2. Support libraries' efforts to improve their clients' understanding and use of electronic library resources and services through development of, increased access to, and training about technology-based systems and resources.
3. Foster the availability of a trained and proficient library work force through such programs as statewide recruitment of new librarians and paraprofessionals, a library practitioner certificate program, and training for library staff in areas identified in various continuing education needs assessments, to assist Californians in obtaining the information services they need to improve their skills and knowledge.
4. Encourage and assist libraries to aid people with disabilities in their communities to improve their skills, status, and life condition through projects that increase their access to more responsive library services, such as specific service planning programs and training, increased availability of adaptive technology, and access to materials in appropriate, specialized formats.
5. Encourage and support California libraries, through a variety of state and locally developed projects, to review and revise their services so they are best able to assist Californians in improving their skills, knowledge, status, and life condition.

In addition, I am particularly interested in grant projects that:

- Support self-directed use of the library, including making the library and its resources and services easier to use and navigate for the customer;
- Involve collaboration with other community organizations that increase the visibility and presence of the library in the community; and
- Demonstrate that the library is reaching out beyond its walls to engage its community and promote its services

Please note that in most cases upgrades or migrations of local automated systems will not be considered a competitive use of LSTA grant funds.

State Library staff will determine which potential grant projects will need to incorporate outcome measurement, also known as outcome-based planning and evaluation, in their projects, and appropriate training will be provided if necessary. Tentative dates for this training are March 13-14, 2007 or March 20-21, 2007. The State Library encourages the use of outcome measurement in all grant projects when appropriate.

Recipients of 2006/07 LSTA priority grants (those grants that received awards outside of the competitive and targeted program awards) who intend to apply for a 2007/08 grant should use the same proposal materials and adhere to the same deadlines as those applying in the competitive grant program. You will soon receive additional advice regarding your project in a separate letter. If you have questions, please contact the primary consultant in Library Development Services assigned to your 2006/07 priority grants project.

The planned timeline (subject to change) for application and grant processing is as follows:

December 29, 2006	Preliminary Proposals due at Library Development Services, State Library
February 28, 2007	Advice letters on preliminary proposals mailed
April 30, 2007	Final Proposals due at Library Development Services
July 1, 2007	Announcement of awards and start of 2007/08 projects

For assistance with LSTA proposal materials, contact Christopher Berger, LSTA Coordinator, at (916) 653-8313 or [cberger@library.ca.gov](mailto:cberger@library.ca.gov).